

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 are presently pending in this case. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 2, 3, 7, and 9 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 2, 3, 7, and 9 are supported by the original claims and therefore add no new matter.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Chu (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,899). However, Claims 2-10 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise were indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 2-10 include allowable subject matter.

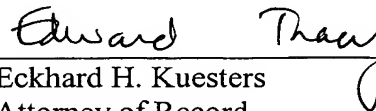
Claim 1 is canceled making the present rejection on the merits moot.

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 9 are amended to include all the limitations of the base claim.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Edward Tracy
Registration No. 47,998